

HONORING THE EMPLOYEES OF
GENESYS REGIONAL MEDICAL
CENTER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the employees of Genesys Regional Medical Center for their quick action during a fire at the hospital on March 22, 2009.

On that morning a fire started in a patient room at the Medical Center. A nurse sounded the alarm and escorted the patient from the room. The nursing staff mobilized and moved 36 patients from the area of the fire. The patients ranged from the wheelchair-bound to the non-ambulatory and many were on oxygen. Security staff, other employees and physicians moved in with fire extinguishers. The oxygen supply to the area was cut off, the sprinkler system activated and the fire was contained to one room.

The Grand Blanc Fire Department noted that not one patient or employee was injured during the entire incident. Due to the quick response by the Genesys staff, patient care was not compromised during the evacuation. Fire Chief James Harnes has complimented the Genesys team for their great work during the crisis.

Madam Speaker, the Genesys Regional Medical Center staff put the well-being of their patients first and they worked together to ensure each and every patient was moved to safety, the fire was extinguished expeditiously, and the security of the Medical Center was not compromised. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commending the employees for their unwavering dedication and quick action.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
AMERICANVIEW GEOSPATIAL IM-
AGERY MAPPING PROGRAM ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the AmericaView Geospatial Imagery Mapping Program Act.

AmericaView is a nationwide program that focuses on satellite remote sensing data and technologies in support of applied research, K-16 education, workforce development, and technology transfer. AmericaView is administered through a partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey and the AmericaView Consortium, which is comprised of over 30 "StateViews." The Consortium is the federal government's primary partner in achieving the program's vision and goals. Specifically, applied researchers at universities in each member state collaborate with each other and with government agencies to develop and share information and techniques for using remote sensing data.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize the AmericaView Geospatial Imagery Mapping Program. By authorizing this program, Con-

gress recognizes the important work conducted by the AmericaView Consortium in collaboration with U.S.G.S. Since the 1970s, the federal government has invested in earth-observing satellites that provide remote sensing imagery. When federal geospatial imagery is available in a cost-effective and timely manner, state, local, and tribal governments as well as educational institutions are able to develop new scientific, educational, and practical applications for the data and to adopt new tools for applied research, education, and training.

The AmericaView program is uniquely positioned to help each state develop applications and skills necessary to effectively apply geospatial imagery for multiple state-focused mapping purposes, and to expand the use and benefits of geospatial imagery for research and operational purposes within each state.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. I look forward to working with all my colleagues to promptly pass the AmericaView Geospatial Imagery Mapping Program Act.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTY KURIATNYK

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Christy Kuriatnyk, named the 2009 Navy Spouse of the Year by Military Spouse Magazine and USAA.

We often praise our men and women in uniform who put their lives on the line every day for our freedom and our security. We're aware of the debt we owe to them but perhaps neglect the unsung heroes they leave behind on the home front: the spouses and children of our troops.

From among these great Americans, Kuriatnyk has gained singular acclaim for her outstanding contributions to her community above and beyond her duties as a military spouse, mother of three and employee of the Columbus Health Department.

Kuriatnyk holds down the fort in Ellerslie, GA, while her husband, Lt. Cmdr. Alex Kuriatnyk, is stationed at the Gulfport, MS, Construction Battalion Center. He is the operations officer there.

Though married to a Navy man, Kuriatnyk often works on behalf of Army families stationed at nearby Fort Benning. She's an active volunteer for Operation Homefront and she's helped organize baby showers for Army spouses and "My Mommy/Daddy's Deployment Party" for the children of Fort Benning soldiers who have gone overseas. As the daughter of a Korean War vet, she has a special bond with these children and she knows the anxiety they feel when their parents are deployed.

Kuriatnyk's work on behalf of children has benefited all of Georgia, not just her fellow military families. She's created programs that have advanced the causes of booster seat use, lead-free toys and skateboard safety.

I'm proud to have this great patriot as a constituent in Georgia's 3rd Congressional District. I call on my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Christy Kuriatnyk on attaining this honor and in thanking her for all of the time and energy she devotes to our

beloved military families. She'll represent military families with distinction as the 2009 Navy Spouse of the Year.

THE WOUNDED VETERAN JOB
SECURITY ACT

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 466 the Wounded Veteran Job Security Act.

It is more important than ever that we support this bill because of the difficult economic times facing our nation.

American servicemen and women put their lives on the line every day to ensure our freedoms.

Across the globe, U.S. troops are engaging in combat and humanitarian missions that place them in harms way.

Regardless of the danger, generations of Americans continue to answer the call of duty.

My father was an Army Staff Sergeant during World War II.

My brother and I served in the Army during the Vietnam era.

Most recently, my son's Army National Guard unit was activated after the September 11th attacks.

As a former member of the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs, I worked with my colleagues to ensure that Veterans had opportunities to find a job once they returned home.

It is important that veterans not only find a job, but they are not penalized by their employer for injuries or illnesses they received in the service of their nation.

A stable career path is essential to ensuring a seamless transition into civilian life.

It is unacceptable to merely provide equipment to protect our troops in combat without also having policies in place to protect them once they return home.

I hope to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to create policy that helps our veterans and their families prosper and enjoy the freedoms they helped to ensure.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Week was first established in 1978 through a joint congressional resolution. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two key anniversaries—the arrival in the U.S. of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Fourteen years later, Congress expanded the week to a month-long celebration.

Today, I am proud to join with all Americans in celebrating the tremendous contributions of the Asian American and Pacific Islander,